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Washington, D.C.

Some Dining Facilities Go A la carte

ARMY dining facilities are giving their customers the chance to eat less and pay less.

The new a la carte system allows customers to purchase individual items at reduced prices, said Tobias Ostrawski, a dining-facility specialist at the Army Center of Excellence, Subsistence, at Fort Lee, Va.

"Instead of feeding the masses, we are focusing on serving customers," said CW2 Eric Persons, the major-command food adviser for the Military District of Washington.

Installations that have implemented the a la carte system in the majority of their dining facilities are Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo.; Fort Drum, N.Y.; Fort Monroe, Va.; and the Presidio of Monterey, Calif. Fort Knox, Ky., opened the first a la carte facility seven

years ago. Ostrawski said there are 13 other installations that have an a la carte dining facility but have not totally discontinued the traditional dining service.

The a la carte system for the most part affects senior enlisted soldiers, officers and department of the Army civilians, who must pay to eat in Army facilities, Ostrawski said. Soldiers with meal cards will continue to eat with no out-of-pocket expenses.

Persons said individuals who pay for their meals usually spend less with the new system. Since dining facilities are not trying to make a profit, but to break even, soldiers with meal cards are asked not to take extra food, he said. — *Army News Service*

Washington, D.C.

DOD Runs Spouse Job Pilot Program

MILITARY spouses in Europe received a special gift June 1 — more flexible and less restrictive DOD employment options.

Military spouses who participate in a two-year pilot program called MSP Choice are allowed to accept an interim job without losing their rehire preference under the Military Spouse Preference Program, according to DOD Civilian Personnel Policy Office officials.

Spouses of active-duty service members who relocate to a new permanent duty station are entitled to hiring preference as long as they're among the best qualified for the position,

officials said.

In the past, military spouses who took temporary or time-limited jobs lost hiring preference. This meant they couldn't compete if more desirable jobs became available later.

Under MSP Choice — the first significant change in the military spousal-employment provision since 1989 — the spouses lose their spousal preference only if they accept or decline the offer of a permanent full-time or a permanent part-time position. The pilot program applies to all DOD appropriated fund and nonappropriated fund positions in Europe.

Spouses in Europe who lost their preference rights before the pilot program started may be eligible for reinstatement under MSP Choice. Individuals who believe they may be eligible should contact their local human-resources offices.

"MSP is restricted to employment of military spouses in the European Theater," said civilian personnel policy spokesperson Diane Hart. "There are no plans to start the program in other areas before the test is over."

"We will monitor the European Command policy and continue to review spouse preference to determine if any further modifications are necessary," she said. "As with any pilot program, we need to evaluate its effectiveness and ensure there are no unintended, negative consequences."

Officials said veterans retain initial-employment preference over spouses. So do employees displaced from their positions through no personal cause and employees placed under the DOD Equal Opportunity Employment Program. — *American Forces Press Service*

Pay Issues

BAH Increase For Junior Enlisted

SOLDIERS in pay grades E-1 through E-4 who have families and live off post saw an increase in their housing allowance July 1. The boost is the result of legislation aimed at helping junior enlisted families.

On average, those in grades E-1 through E-3 will receive a monthly increase of more than \$50. E-4s will see a monthly boost of about \$11. Rates will remain the same for single service members.

Housing allowances are based on rental costs, so the actual increase will vary, depending on the cost of living in that particular area, said MAJ Leslie Gerald, manager of the compensation and entitlements division of the Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel. In most cases, those living in high-cost locations will see larger increases, while allowances will be lower for those living in more affordable areas.

Service members stationed overseas receive their housing allowances under a different system and are not affected by this action.

The new junior enlisted BAH rates were added by Congress to the fiscal year 2001 National Defense Authorization Act. The addition was one of several initiatives designed to aid low-income military families. — *ARNEWS*



Runners from around the world will gather at the Pentagon on Sunday, Oct. 14 to participate in the 17th annual Army Ten-Miler.

Alexandria, Va.

MWR Hosts Arts Contest, BOSS Conference

ARMY Arts and Crafts conducts two annual contests: the 2001 All-Army Photography Contest and the 2001 All-Army Fine Arts Contest.

All active-duty and reserve-component soldiers and their families are eligible to participate. Civilians may also compete at installation and major Army command level.

Check with local arts and crafts or MWR staff members for contest rules, guidance and local deadlines. Details are also available at www.armymwr.com. MACOM finalists' entries must be received at the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center by Dec. 15. Judging for both contests is scheduled between January and March 2002.

Also, it's time for all Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers representatives and senior NCO and MWR advisors to get together for annual training. This year's Armywide BOSS conference takes place at the Xerox Document University in

Leesburg, Va., Sept. 9 through 14.

Items on the agenda include a pep talk from SMA Jack Tilley, a session on briefing techniques, the installation BOSS program competition and a recreation programmer's workshop. There will also be updates on new technologies from Natick labs and the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center MWR programs.

This year's theme, "BOSS: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work," reinforces the "for the soldier, by the soldier" concept.

To register for the conference see your local MWR adviser. Information about BOSS and the conference is available on the CFSC home page at www.armymwr.com. Click on "BOSS" under "Recreation" in the front-page menu. — *USACFSC Public Affairs Office*

Washington, D.C.

Ten-Miler Applications Due

RUNNERS from around the world will gather at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., on

Sunday, Oct. 14 to participate in the 17th annual Army Ten-Miler.

Recognized by USA Track and Field as the world's largest ten-mile race in 2000, the event is expected to attract 18,000 runners in more than 600 teams in 2001. Approximately 7,400 of the 18,000 runners will be service members.

A new award this year will be presented to the top three male and female Reserve and National Guard teams, and another new team category is the Sergeants Major Masters team competition.

Go to www.armytenmiler.com for information about the

race, registration and associated events. Entry deadline is 5:00 p.m. EST, Sept. 14, or when the runner field reaches 18,000. On-line registration will remain open until the race closes.

The Army Ten-Miler is produced by the Military District of Washington. — *Army Ten-Miler Coordinator*

Washington, D.C.

DOD Examines Blood-Donor Rules

THE Department of Defense is working behind the scenes to create a national standard for

Transformation

New Transformation Doctrine Issued

TWO new field manuals provide a glimpse of how the Army will operate while transforming into a more strategically responsive and dominant force for the evolving security challenges of the new century.

One manual, FM 1, "The Army," establishes Army doctrine, while FM 3-0, "Operations," establishes how the Army will conduct activities across the full range of military operations.

FM 1 replaces FM 100-1 and FM 3-0 replaces FM 100-5. The new numerical designation reflects the Army's efforts to follow the Department of Defense's system of numbering manuals, officials said.

FM 1 has four main parts: the Army in the profession of arms, how the Army fits into strategic and joint military operations, the Army's core competencies and "the way ahead," or the future of the Army, said COL Neal Anderson, chief of strategic planning, concepts and doctrine with the Army Staff's Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans.

FM 3-0, the Army's capstone warfighting manual, establishes doctrine across the range of military operations — peace, conflict and war, Anderson said. It outlines those operations as offensive, defensive, and stability and support operations that can be performed simultaneously, Anderson said.

Linked to FM 1, FM 3-0 will guide the Army as it transforms into a force that will be more responsive, deployable, agile, versatile, lethal, survivable, sustainable and deployable, he said. — *ARNEWS*

collecting blood as the American Red Cross prepares to adopt new donor rules in September.

Red Cross officials have

said the rules stem from concerns about the spread of "mad cow" disease in Europe. The Red Cross plans not to take donations from persons who at

any time since 1980 spend or have spent a cumulative three months or more in the United Kingdom. The restriction also applies to persons who have spent a cumulative six months or more in any of the other European countries or received a blood transfusion in the United Kingdom.

DOD and the Red Cross currently follow the Food and Drug Administration's lead, said COL Mike Fitzpatrick, director of the Armed Services Blood Program. He said the policy for the past two years has been to defer persons indefinitely as donors if they resided in the United Kingdom between 1980 and 1996 for a cumulative six months or more.

The current deferral rule affects 5 percent or less of DOD's donor population worldwide, he estimated. Implementing the Red Cross' new policy throughout Europe would make about 25 percent of the active-duty force ineligible to donate blood, he said.

DOD will continue to follow the FDA guidelines, he said, but the FDA has not agreed to the Red Cross' policy — and two donor standards will be in use unless it does.

DOD collects about 100,000 units of blood per year. It must maintain that rate to have enough blood for troops in Kosovo, Bosnia and other areas where safe supplies would be hard to find and tap, Fitzpatrick said.

The incurable, always-fatal "mad cow" disease is caused

by an infectious protein that destroys the victim's nervous system. Called variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans, the disorder usually kills within 18 months of the onset of symptoms.

Fitzpatrick said there's no evidence the disease is or can be transmitted through a blood transfusion. To date, fewer than 100 cases of variant CJD have been reported since it was identified, and none was the result of a blood transfusion, he said.

The only way the evidence today points to humans contracting variant CJD is by being unusually susceptible to it and eating infected meat. The infectious protein that triggers variant CJD, however, is known to be able to hide for 15 years or more in lymphatic tissue, the appendix, stomach, spleen, white cells and in the blood at

low levels, Fitzpatrick said.

At this time, no blood test exists to detect the presence of the infectious protein, he noted.

The DOD veterinarians re-

sponsible for the wholesomeness of military foods have determined that service members and their families face little risk of contracting variant CJD, he said.

Deployed service members are at less risk than casual travelers in Europe because military personnel eat foods from military supply channels, which don't buy meat from the United Kingdom, Fitzpatrick said. — *American Forces Press Service*

PERSTEMPO

LES Shows PERSTEMPO Counter

KEEPING track of how often you are away from home for Army business is now easier, if you are a soldier. Effective with the May end-of-month Leave and Earnings Statement, soldiers started seeing a personnel tempo counter in the remarks section.

Mandated by Congress in the fiscal year 2000 National Defense Authorization Act, all services began tracking individual deployments last October. Service members will be entitled to \$100 per day for every day they are deployed 401 days or more in a rolling 730-day window. The policy applies to both the active and reserve components.

The payment is not intended to provide an additional financial entitlement or incentive for deployment, said CPT Danita Bertone, the Army's PERSTEMPO staff officer with the Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Personnel.

The congressional definition of a deployed day is "Any day which, pursuant to orders, the member is performing service in a training exercise, operation, or performing mission-support temporary duty at a location, or under circumstances that make it impossible or infeasible for the member to spend off-duty time in the housing in which the member resides when on garrison duty at the member's permanent duty station."

What counts as deployment days is such overnight events as support operations, exercises, on- and off-post unit training and mission-support temporary duty.

What does not count on the PERSTEMPO clock is disciplinary confinement, absence without leave, school training and leave in conjunction with a deployment event.

Some LESs may not accurately reflect a soldiers' current deployment count. The two most likely reasons for a discrepancy, Bertone said, are that the unit has not entered deployment events in the PERSTEMPO web application, or the soldier is including deployment events that occurred after the "as-of date" of the LES counter. Deployment time prior to Oct. 1 does not count.

Soldiers who believe their LES PERSTEMPO counts are incorrect should contact their unit commanders to review the deployment events they have participated in since Oct. 1, Bertone said.

For more information, visit the PERSTEMPO website, www-perscom.army.mil/perstempo. — *ARNEWS*

